



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



February 19, 2019

Aaron Swartz Day
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 66613
411A Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144-2516
66613-97289831@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Mr. Swartz Day:

This letter is in response to your request under the California Public Records Act dated and received by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Discovery Unit on December 26, 2018.

In your request, you are seeking specifically:

1. "Number, if any, of Thermal Cameras (FLIR) owned by this department or agency. Please specify if the equipment is hand-held, pole-mounted or in used in conjunction with aircraft."
2. "Number, if any, of Thermal Cameras (FLIR) available for use by this department or agency via collaborative agreements that were utilized within the period encompassing this request."
3. "Please provide the name of the department or agency that made FLIR devices available to this department or agency for use."
4. "Any documents or correspondence during the period encompassing this request regarding possible or planned acquisition of Thermal Cameras or FLIRS."
5. Any existing or proposed usage policies regarding the use of Thermal Cameras or FLIRS including protocols, training documents, data storage procedures and prohibited activities."
6. "Any current or past litigation involving or referencing this department or agency involving the use of Thermal Cameras or FLIRS."

211 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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Response Request #1: LASD owns 12 FLIR cameras, 8 Star Sapphire 230 HD and 4 Star Sapphire 380 HD. All the cameras are hard mounted to our helicopters.

Response Request #2: LASD has no records responsive to your request.

Response Request #3: The cameras are made by the FLIR Company and purchased from them. FLIR provides the Department with hands on training regarding the usage of the camera.

Response Request #4: LASD has no records responsive to your request.

Response Request #5: The information below is found within the AERO Bureau Manual Excerpt, 4/090.08 Deployment and Use of Special Equipment:

The Aero Bureau has several pieces of special equipment to assist in providing air support. Any special equipment, not permanently installed or attached to an aircraft or individually assigned to Bureau personnel, shall be signed out and in on the appropriate form. When the equipment is returned, the appropriate time and date shall be noted. At the beginning of each shift, the on-coming Watch Sergeant or Watch Deputy shall conduct an inventory and account for all special equipment.

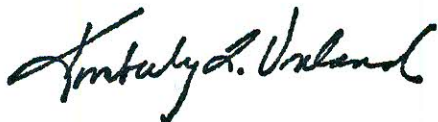
FLIR units shall be operated by Aero Bureau trained and authorized personnel only. Though the FLIR is an instrument best suited for conducting searches at night, FLIR searches shall not be conducted in mountainous terrain unless the pilot is mountain qualified, is NVG qualified and NVG current and using NVG goggles. The pilot shall maintain the aircraft at an altitude above the surrounding ridgelines. Off-shore FLIR searches shall be done at a distance no greater than 1/2 miles from land during darkness, and with a defined visible horizon.

Response Request #6: LASD has no records responsive to your request.

If you have any questions, please contact Lieutenant Smeltzer of the Discovery Unit at (323) 890-5000.

Sincerely,

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly L. Unland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Kimberly L. Unland, Captain
Risk Management Bureau